

PRELIMINARY STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**CARRIER:**

Senate Committee on Education

REVENUE: No revenue impact**FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, statement not yet issued****Action:****Vote:****Yeas:****Nays:****Exc.:****Prepared By:** Gretchen Engbring, Administrator**Meeting Dates:** 4/2, 4/16

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Requires each school district board to adopt child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in kindergarten to grade 12. Stipulates what program must include. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- “Erin’s Law”
- Similar provisions in existing Oregon law
- Alignment with current health education law, standards, and benchmarks

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: The Child Welfare Data Book (Oregon Department of Human Services, 2013) reported 860 incidents of child sexual abuse in 2013; this represents a 10% increase from incidents reported in 2012. However, it is estimated that only 30 percent of sexual assault cases are reported to authorities (Finkelhor, 2009).

“Erin’s Law” requires that all public schools in a state implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program that teaches students age-appropriate techniques to recognize and report sexual abuse, provide training to administrators, teachers and other school personnel about sexual abuse, and inform parents about child sexual abuse topics. First passed in Illinois, 21 states have now passed Erin’s Law.

Senate Bill 856 mimics Erin’s law to require each school district board to adopt child sexual abuse prevention instructional program for students in kindergarten to grade 12. In addition to student instruction, the bill specifies that the program must include a professional training component for administrators, teachers and other school personnel as well as a parental involvement component to inform parents about child sexual abuse topics.